

# The Gazette

## All in: Dozens crowding ballot for primaries

■ County executive, council races draw the largest number of candidates

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The face of Montgomery County government is set to change in December after dozens of candidates filed last week hoping to win one of nine council seats, succeed retiring County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D) as county executive or fill other county offices.

Three Democrats will battle to be

A full list of names  
■ Page AXX

the county executive nominee in the Sept. 12 primary: former county councilman Isiah Leggett of Burtonsville, current Councilman Steven A. Silverman (At large) of Silver Spring and Robert Raymond Fuster of Silver Spring who garnered 20 percent of the vote in the 2002 Democratic primary for governor.

Progressive Maryland, a liberal advocacy group, endorsed Leggett on Tuesday. The Service Employees International Union endorsed Silverman in May.

On Nov. 7, the Democratic nominee will face Republican Charles R. Floyd of Kensington, a retired Army major who ran in 2004 for the 4th District congressional seat held by U.S. Rep. Christopher Van Hollen Jr. (D), and longtime county activist and former state delegate Robin Ficker of Boyds who dropped his Republican affiliation to run as an independent.

Floyd has gotten attention for working with the Minutemen organization and advocates tougher measures to combat illegal immigration.

Eighteen people are seeking four at-large seats on the council, including one left open by Silverman's run for county executive.

Thirteen Democrats will vie for at-large seats in the September primary, including incumbents Nancy M. Floren of Garrett Park, Michael L. Stabin of Gaithersburg and George L. Leventhal of Takoma Park. Competition for those seats could be fierce, particularly with the entry of former school board member Reginald M. Pelton of Silver Spring, civic activist Cary Lamari of Silver Spring, women's rights activist Duchy Trachtenberg of Bethesda and Takoma Park City Councilman Marc Ehrlich, as well as former county councilman Donnell Peterman. Peterman, of Burtonsville, was appointed to serve several months on the council in 2002 to finish the term of Derrick P. Berlage (D), who resigned to seek the job of Planning Board chairman.

The four Democrats who win

that primary will face Republicans Sheldon "Shelly" Scheckick of Silver Spring, Amber Goemel of Silver Spring and Adel T. Owen-Williams II of Clarkburg as well as Green Party candidate Joseph P. Hogan of Kensington and Janice L. Norman of Rockville, an independent.

Councilman Thomas E. Perez's decision to run for state attorney general opens up the District 5 seat representing the southeastern part of the county. The District 5 seat will be decided in the September primary because the only two candidates in the race — school board member and former County Council staffer Valerie Ervin of Silver Spring and national Rock the Vote political and issues director Harsa Riemer, also of Silver Spring — are Democrats.

All four council members running for re-election from districts face opposition.

In District 3, Councilman Philip M. Andrews of Gaithersburg will again face Rockville City Councilman Robert E. Dusey in the Democratic primary, which will decide that seat because there are no other candidates.

Democrats and Republicans are vying for the District 4 seat held by Councilwoman Marilyn J. Pfisterer (D) of Calverton and the District 2 seat held by Councilman Michael J. Knapp (D) of Germantown.

Longtime Republican Councilman Howard A. Dentis of Chevy Chase faces a challenge from lawyer Roger Berliner (D) of Potomac in District 1.

The county teacher's union, which represents an important voting bloc, has decided to endorse whoever wins the Democratic nomination for county executive, but surprised many when it declined to endorse Andrews, Floren, Pfisterer and Stabin.

In the state's attorney's race, veteran Deputy State Attorney John McCarthy of Rockville faces former California prosecutor Daniel M. Fox of Bethesda in the Democratic primary. There are no GOP candidates.

There are three Democrats running for sheriff, incumbent Raymond M. Right, former county schools security director Edward A. Clarke and former state trooper Rob Moroney. The winner will face Republican Dave Stoff in November.

Also up for election is the register of wills (Democrat Joseph M. Griffin is the sole candidate) and clerk of courts where Rick Dahle, Caryn Hines and Loretta E. Knight are vying for the Democratic nomination in September. The winners will face Republican Jerry Bork on Nov. 7.